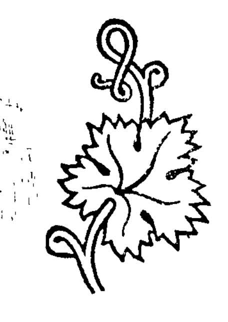


L. C. Taillon

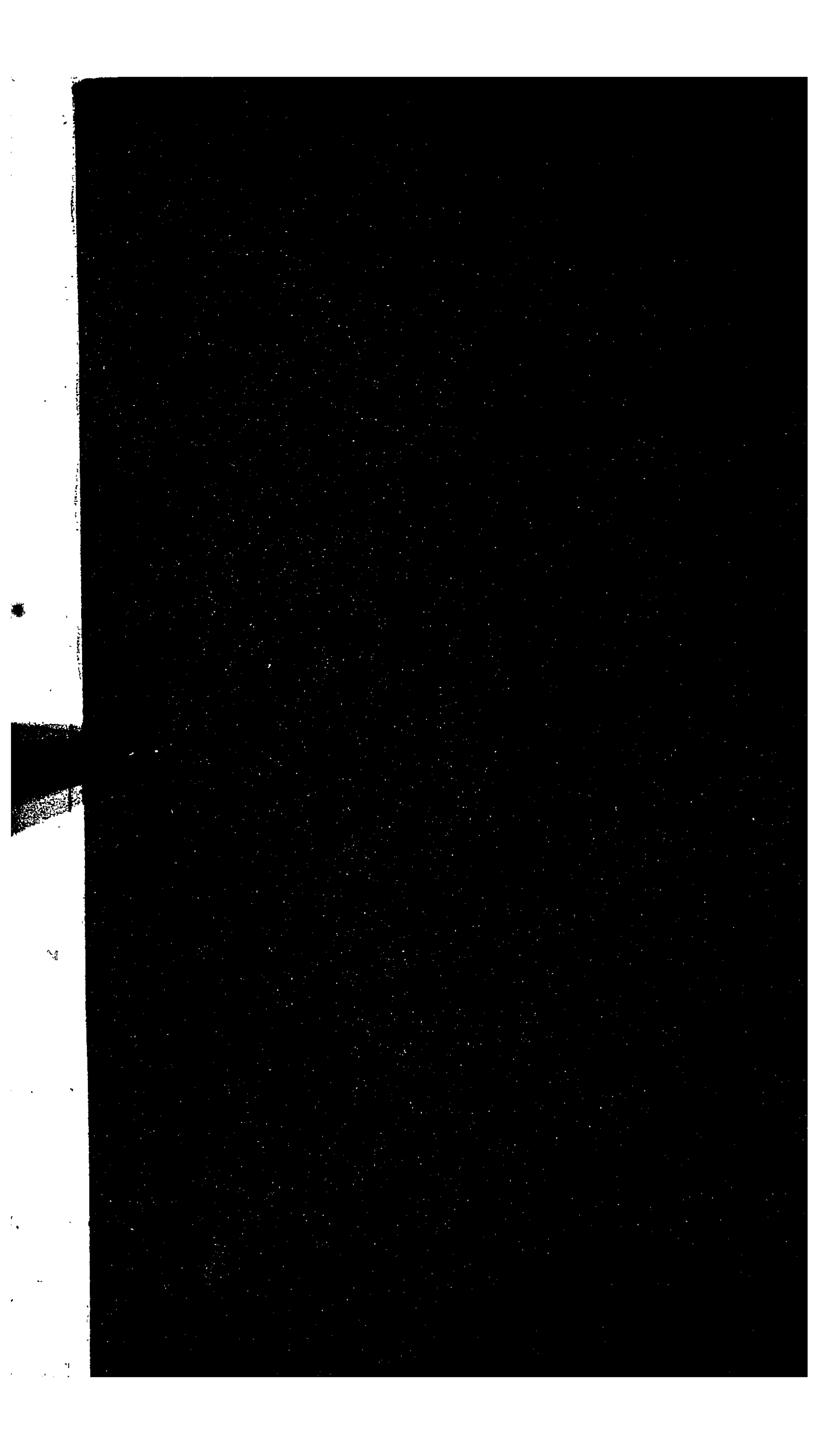
The Fort Garry Convention



By C. A. Harwood



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fur trade, so intimately connected with the discovery, exploration and settlement of our Western Provinces. Nevertheless, in order to a better appreciation of the facts set forth in Riel's own relation of some of the incidents of the first Red River troubles, and of the changes consequent thereto in the Government of those parts, it may not be amiss to cast a cursory glance on the past history of that region; for "Revolutions are not made; they come", says Wendell Phillips, "......out of the past... Its foundations are laid far back".

In 1656, the French in Canada sent Jean Bourdon, an engineer of Quebec, to Hudson's Bay, where he made treaties with the Indians for fur trading. Six years later, the New England Colonies fitted an expedition to the same point, under Captain Shapley, whilst Radisson and DeGroseillers, who had already been to Lakes Michigan and Superior (1658-61), pushed their way over land to the inland sea under the guidance of Assiniboine Indians, who led them back to Quebec. In this early emulation for securing the advantages of this lucrative commerce, we may see one of the deeply laid seeds of the gigantic conflict which followed for supremacy on this continent.

At Quebec, the glowing accounts of Radisson and his companion fell upon incredulous ears; so they left for France, where they fared better, through meeting the Duke of Montague whom they so deeply impressed with their scheme of trading through the Bay, that he gave them a letter of introduction to Prince

Rupert. Hence, in 1668, the voyage of the "Nonpareil" to the Bay, and the formation in 1670 of "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudsons Bay," whose charter was granted by Charles II, the second day of May of that year.

Leaving aside as useless for the present purpose the history of the long-continued struggle of the French and English for mastery of the Bay, the year 1821 is ushered in with a truce between the stalwart rivals, the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Fur Company, when, by an agreement between William McGillivray, Simon McGillivray and Edward Ellice, who had obtained control of the shares of the latter, the two concerns ended all rivalry by merging their interests...."The Lords of the lakes and forest had passed away...."

A Royal license bearing date December 5, 1821, secured for the new organization the exclusive privilege of the fur trade for twenty-one years, "with the " Indians in all such parts of North America to the " northward and the westward of the lands and ter- " ritories belonging to the United States of America " as shall not form part of any of our provinces in " North America,...."—1838 saw a renewal of the same privilege for the same period, with the reservation to the Crown of the right to plant colonies in said territory, or to annex the same or any part thereof to any existing colony. It was very shortly previous to the granting of this second license that a form of

government had been established at Red River, where, on the 12th February 1835, the legislative council was convened for the first time under Sir George Simpson, governor of Rupert's Land. Even prior to this there had been friction between the half breeds and officers of the company, whom the former accused of resorting to arbitrary measures in the exercise of their extensive privileges of trade, etc. As the Council was composed of influential inhabitants of the colony nominated and commissioned by the committee in London, with power to make civil and criminal laws, there is no doubt that its constitution and working provoked the first desire of the people for representative government,—a feeling that afterwards broke out now and again into displays of sentiment hostile to the Company, until it finally burst forth into open rebellion. Some were not wanting who also objected to the personnel of the Council as too representative of the Company's interest, and to the too high duties, which they considered were aimed against the small traders. Again, the decisions of the magistrates, all members of the government, did not lessen the discontent, as they were taxed with arbitrariness. The first clash between the inhabitants and the Council occured soon after. On April 28, 1836, the first petty jury empanelled tried the case of Louis St Denis, for theft. Convicted, he was sentenced to be flogged; and on the day when sentence was to be carried into effect, it required a large force of police to prevent a rescue by the excited populace, and the man who



administrated the flogging had to flee for life. The severity of the sentence created sympathy for the transgressor of the law, rather than respect, or confidence in the administration of justice. The duty on imports from seven and a half per cent had to be reduced to five, and then again to four, where it remained till the transfer to the Dominion. In 1839, Mr Thom was appointed Recorder of Rupert's Land. He was of high attainments, but could not speak French; and when it became known that he was also to act as judge on the bench, strong objections were raised to this; because, since he was a salaried officer of the Company, drawing £700 per annum, it was concluded that he would have a special eye to the interests of his employers above those of all others. His views were also stated to be inimical to the interest of the half breeds and Canadians. Time ony served to strengthen the prejudice against him: hence, the arm of the law was rather weakened by his presence. Many were jealous of the privileges of the company, which also gave it the right to protect its interests, and doubting the justice of its claim, the former endeavored in every way to oppose the company, secretly, if not openly, and so perfect unity between governing power and governed became well nigh impossible. To cope with these troubles, the company had moral suasion, 'tis true, but no armed force to compel obedience to its laws.

The increase of the number of hunters, most of them French half-breeds, their exacting demands, and

their inclination to disregard more and more the exclusive rights of the company in the matter of fur trading, often led the former to sell their pelts to American traders, in violation of the law, so the company naturally thought.

To put a stop to the illicit traffic, as it was termed, the authorities forcibly entered the house of Registe Larant on suspicion of having violated the company's chartered rights, and seized furs therein. This was followed by two more such seizures. Thereupon the whole French half-breed population became enraged. Then again, an English half-breed named Hallett, deeming himself slighted by an officer of the company, roused the sympathy of the population to which he belonged against the fur monopoly, with the result that French and English joined, and combined in opposing the Company, and plots, plans and meetings followed, ever threatening the peace of the settlement. These facts may be considered the first serious causes of the troubles that followed.

In 1844, Governor Christie, of Assiniboine, issued a proclamation, requiring that all business letters from importers of goods to their agents in England, to be forwarded by the Company's packet, should be sent to Fort Garry open for the perusal of the autorities, previous to being despatched. This was to prevent any private fur-trading, the company taking the stand that their ships were not supposed or intended to be used as common carriers, but simply for freighting the supplies required by the company's own trade.

But the merchants contended that the company under its administrative obligations, was bound to provide postal facilities on fair terms. Incidentally, it may be stated that the Governor and committee in London repudiated and disallowed this regulation.

The natural effect of this last measure was to embitter the petty traders who, in turn, began sowing the seeds of dissatisfaction, and every day saw the monopoly of trade more seriously assailed.

In June 1845, the Council saw fit to impose a duty of 20% on all imports from England, and did away with all the middlemen in the trade. Having already tasted the benefits of free trading with the United States, the half-breeds, standing upon their claims as descendants of the native Indians, chafed under the restraints of the Company. In the spring of 1849, a French half-breed named William Sayers, and 3 others named McGillis, Laronde and Goulle, were accused of illicit trading in furs. At the trial, Sayers acknowledged he had so traded, but with leave of an officer of the Company named Harriott : he was released. This was hailed as a signal victory for the half-breeds who, amid volleys and huzzas in honor of "la liberté", displayed a more energetic determination to stand by the advantages so singularly won.

Population.—In March 1843, the whole population of Red River Colony was 5,143 souls, of whom 2,798 Roman Catholics, 2,345 Protestants, comprising 870 heads of families, whereof 571 were Indians or half-breeds, 152 Canadians, some English, Scotch, etc.

The 7th August 1846, 329 men and 18 officers, landed unexpectedly at York Factory, and reached Fort Garry in September of that year. They were a wing of the 6th Regiment of foot, accompanied by detachments of artillery and Royal Engineers. No such large force was required to cope with the difficulties at Red River; and the only reason for their presence was the Oregon boundary question which had then reached an acute stage. They were recalled almost immediately after that vexed question was settled, in July 1848.

CANADIAN CLAIMS; THE COMMITTEE OF 1857.

In July 1849, The British House of Commons passed an address to the Crown asking for an inquiry into the legality of the powers claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company in respect of territory, trade, taxation and government. The directors of the Company, called upon by Earl Gray, forwarded a carefully prepared statement of the rights to which they considered themselves entitled, and the extent to which they were exercised; they claimed power to make, ordain, and constitute necessary laws, levy fines, taxes, and that they were empowered to establish governors and all the officers required to govern the county. In 1859,



Sirs John Jervis and John Romilly, law officers of the Crown, examined the report and expressed the opinion that the rights claimed by the Company properly belonged to them, suggesting that for a more formal argument and decision the best tribunal would be the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. No one would appear as complainant as against the Company, so there the matter dropped.

1857. Canada lays claim to much territory held by the company. The many questions involved were so complicated that a select committee of the (British) House of Commons was ordered,—"To consider the state of these British possessions in North America, which are under the administration of the Hudson's Bay Company or over which they possess a license of trade." In the list of 19 members composing the Committee, we read such names as Sir Henry Labouchere, Lord John Russell, Gladstone, Lord Stanley, Mr Roebuck, Mr Edward Ellice. Among the witnesses examined we note Sir George Simpson, Mr Alex. Isbester, Chief Justice Draper. Canada sent the last named to watch the proceedings of the Committee and give all possible assistance. The inquiry affected Canada's interest in a three-fold manner :—

(1) the boundary of Canada ; (2) the great interest to Canadians that the territory should be maintained British ; (3) because Canadians looked to it to extend their settlements.

Draper admitted that, so long as there was no proper means of communication between the provinces and the Hudson's Bay Territory, Canada would not be in a position to take it over. He expressed the opinion that Canada would be willing to undertake the work of surveys and establishing communications on the understanding that the country would be eventually transferred to its jurisdiction. The select Committee of the British House of Commons reported the 31st July 1857, and expressed the wish "that there would be no difficulty in effecting arrangements as between Her Majesty's Government and the Hudson's Bay Company by which these districts may be ceded to Canada on equitable principles,—and within these districts so annexed, the authority of the Company would of course cease".

The report of the Committee became well known at Red River; and this, together with the knowledge that the license of the Company would soon expire, tended to lessen the influence and authority of the Company in the minds of most of the settlers.

In 1859 the license granted in 1838 for 21 years expired, and the company twice refused offers of renewal made to it by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Canadian Government fitted out an exploring and surveying expedition under Simon J. Dawson and Henry Youle Hind. The "Nor'Wester" appeared at Red River,—a sheet representing the

ideas of the Canadian party, who were hostile to the Company and favored the annexation of the territory to Canada.

The settlement progressed some and institutions were established for regulating law and order, Courts heard petty cases, etc., and so the settlers took on a greater degree of confidence in themselves and more independance of feeling.

With the expiration of the Company's license, free trading increased rapidly. The uncertainty of the Company's position as a governing power tended to weaken its influence with the settlers, and with no militia force at their command to enforce the law, the Council ruled more by moral suasion, and the good-will and law abiding character of the majority. This ground was most unsafe and the time was certainly ripe for agitators and intriguers to undermine their power, and shatter, or at least, considerably try, the weakening fabric of the company's authority.

The year 1856 witnessed a strong feeling here that the whole of the North West ought to be under the Canadian Government, and the Hudson's Bay Company appear to have been willing to come to terms for its transfer, if operative. The 30th May, 1859, Vancouver became a Crown Colony and in 1858 the Canadian Executive had memorialized the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the necessity of opening a direct line of communication, by rail or otherwise, from Canada, through the Red River and Saskatchewan Territories to Vancouver Island. About this

time Messrs Carter, Ross, and Galt visited England, re Hudson's Bay Company question and intimated that the Canadian Government would take legal proceedings to test the validity of the Company's charter; yet nothing was done. Negociations were carried on both by several Secretaries of State for the Colonies and the Canadian Government to settle the question. Finally, in 1862, Messrs Howland and Sicotte were sent to England to press with the Home Government the importance of opening up the Hudson's Bay country. Sir Edmond Head, as one of the directors of the Company, reconstructed about this time, 1863, favored the complete purchase of the Company's territory by the Crown. But some distrust had been created in the minds of some of our statesmen by the recent reconstruction of the Company and its increase of capital, they taking the ground that the capital had been inflated with the object of demanding an unreasonable amount for the territories. So, while the Company were willing to sell out for £1,000,000, in their last proposal, the statesmen of Canada all along were questioning the title of the Company. This, naturally, was known to the population likely to be mostly affected by any transfer, that is, the people of the West.

In 1867, Confederation Act was passed and its section 146 provides for the admission of Rupert's Land and the Territories into Confederation, on such terms and conditions in each case as are expressed

in addresses from the Houses of Parliament to Her Majesty's Privy Council.

On December 4, 1867, Honorable William McDougall, Minister of Public Works, introduced a series of resolutions on which the addresses were to be based. In his speech supporting these resolutions, Mr McDougall concluded—"1.—That it was desirable "that the North West be transferred from Imperial to "Canadian authority; 2.—The control of that country "ought to be in the hands of this Parliament. Then, "if the Company make any claim to any portion of "the soil occupied by our servants (that is, of the Ca-"nadian Government) they will go into Court to make "good their claim." This was contrary to the stand taken by the Government in 1846, which it stated in a minute of the Council, "that they would feel it to "be one of their first duties to open negociations with "the Company for the transfer of their claims to the "territory". McDougall even added: "The Honorable "gentleman (Mr Holton), even pretended that the "Government was prepared to recognize the rights "of the Hudson's Bay Company, to demand a large "sum of money from the people of this country. He "denied there was such intention. They proposed "to claim this country as being part of New-France, "as having been ceded to the English Government "in 1760, and as having remained in that position "from that time down to the present." The Company insisted upon the terms being first settled. The Secretary of State for the Colonies in a despatch to

Lord Monck, Governor General, said that the terms would have to be settled before any transfer could be effected, and that a bill, based on the proposals of the Company, would be presented to the Imperial Parliament.

On the 3rd October 1868, Messrs McDougall and Cartier were delegated to England to settle the terms of the transfer, and the matter was terminated on the 9th March, 1869, the Company to receive £3,000,000 on the surrender of their rights to the Imperial Government, who should within one month from such transfer, re-transfer the same to Canada. The Imperial Government agreed to guarantee a loan for the amount to pay the Company, and the Dominion Government undertook to respect the rights of the Indians and half-breeds in the territory transferred.

EFFECTS OF THE NEGOCIATIONS ON THE RED RIVER SETTLERS

The officers of the Company were not altogether satisfied with the change of policy of the Company brought about by the recent reconstruction in London. The future of the grand old concern appeared to be very uncertain and their own prospects far from satisfactory. The settlers and half-breeds, seeing that some great change was at hand which might seriously affect their welfare, began to grow uneasy and restless under the unsettled state of affairs, especially

as in the negociations which were going on, their feelings and desires appeared to be ignored altogether.

William MacTavish was governor since 1864.

The population of Red River was then between twelve and fifteen hundred of whom about one half were French half-breeds engaged chiefly in hunting, trading, trapping and freighting. The most restless under the proposed change, and although they had been the strongest opponents of the Company throughout, they were now more inclined to remain under the sway of the Company than to be transferred to the care of the Canadians whom they looked upon very much in the light of strangers.

During 1862-3, The "Nor'Wester" assailed Governor Dallas for his order to pay for country produce in merchandise only. From this on, the paper was always a thorn in the side of the Company. About this time, Rev. G. O. Corbett, tried, convicted and imprisoned for a serious crime, was, through the agitation created by the "Nor'Wester", rescued by a party of English half-breeds headed by Hallett hereinabove mentioned. As the Company had no troops to impose obedience to the decisions of the Courts, no proceedings were taken against the rioters. The authority of the company, unsupported by any force, was practically dead.

In 1865, Dr Schultz became owner of the "Nor' Wester", and he severely attacked the magistrates of the Company with reference to lawsuits of his own against Mr. McKenny, his former partner in business.

The 8th December 1866, five persons assembled at the Court House, at Fort Garry, and drew up a petition to the Imperial Government, asking to be received into Confederation. The "Nor-Wester" magnified this as a movement to get rid of the Company and it was so accepted in Canada. Dr. Schultz tried to obtain a seat in the Council of Assiniboine, but failed, and, of course, increased in the bitterness of his attacks upon the Company. About this time, Schultz, whom his former partner McKenny, who was then sheriff, had had seized, bound with cords and cast into prison, by way of satisfying a judgment for debt, was released by a number of friends. The Council was again powerless to enfonce its decisions. Just about this time, one Thomas Spence, with a few followers, moved to Portage La Prairie and organized a new government which they called the "Republic of Manitoba". They tried to levy taxes, but this was opposed. He then arrested one Macpherson for refusing to be taxed, but Macpherson was rescued by friends who turned the new government out of doors. Spence wrote to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, relating his doings, but he was naturally turned down. In Canada, all these events appeared as if caused by the mis-government and tyranny of the Hudson's Bay Company, owing to the reports of the "Nor-Wester" which was the mouthpiece of the malcontents.

In the autumn of 1868, a party of Canadian Government employees in charge of John Snow arrived



in the settlement for the purpose of constructing a road between the Lake of the Woods and the Red River, the idea being to prosecute a public work, as well as to afford relief to the settlers working on it, who had suffered through the failure of the crops caused by the ravages of grasshoppers or locusts in 1867. About this time, some Ontario newspapers published some privite letters purporting to be written by some one with Snow, and addressed by him to friends who injudiciously communicated them to the press. These letters caused an unfriendly feeling amongst the French halfbreeds against Canadian new-comers generally. Snow was acting under the instructions of the Honorable Mr. William McDougall, Minister of Public Works of Canada. Snow says that on his arrival he received the verbal consent of Governor MacTavish to proceed with the work on the road, but it seems that the company protested against this to the authorities in England. Few settlers were employed on the work, but many were Americans who once threatened to drown Snow unless he increased their wages. In February 1869, Snow and others were supposed to be implicated in a disturbance at Oak Point over a scheme for buying from Indians their title to lands, irrespective of the claims of the half-breed settlers. They were seized by a party of excited men and brought to Fort Garry, and released through the influance of Governor MacTavish. Snow was condemned, though, to pay £5 for selling liquor to Indians. The Governor then wrote to Mr. McDou-

gall who replied that the money voted for the works on the Lake of the Woods road was intented for the relief of the settlers, "as the company had done nothing for the starving people of Red River", and this was said although the company had contributed £2000 sterling for their relief. Of the $30,000 paid by the Canadian Government for the road, very little went to the settlers. In July 1869, Colonel Dennis was sent to Red River to lay out townships and survey the country; but on the 11th October, 1869, a party of men headed by Louis Riel stopped him, threatening violence. The Catholic clergy tried to stamp out the agitation but without success. Parties on the survey were said to have laid out lots which, they stated, would belong to them as soon as the Canadian Government had taken possession. These facts, together with the Oak Point incident, led the half-breeds to believe that their homes and lands would be confiscated, immediately upon the transfer of the territory to Canada; and they began to think the company was playing into the hands of Canada, Meantime, arrangements were making for the transfer, and it was expected that on or about the 1st December 1869, the Queen's proclamation would be issued fixing a day for the union to Canada.

1869 Col. Dennis

Louis Riel

On the 20th September, 1869, the Honorable William McDougall was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the North West Territories, said appointment to take effect from and after the day of the transfer. On the same day, he was instructed to proceed with

1869 McDougall



all convenient speed to Fort Garry, in order to pave the way for the proposed change. He reached the Pembina H.B. post the 30th October. Riel and his friends had in the meantime erected a barrier across the road from Pembina to Fort Garry at Riviere Sale in order to prevent McDougall's entance. Three or four hundred men were stationed at this point. A Council was formed with John Bruce as President, and Louis Riel as Secretary, which sent the following message to McDougall:- "Monsieur,- Le Comité " National des Métis de la Rivière Rouge, intime à " Monsieur W. McDougall l'ordre de ne pas entrer sur " le Territoire du Nord-Ouest sans une permission " spéciale de ce comité.

"Par ordre du Président,

"John Bruce

"Louis Riel, Secrétaire.

"Daté à St-Norbert, Rivière Rouge, ce 21e jour d'Octobre, 1869".

Colonel Dennis did not remain inactive, but attempted to raise a force among the English and Scotch settlers to escort the new Governor into the settlement. They refused, stating that they had not been consulted as to the transfer and that they did not want to come into conflict with the French party, thinking "that the "Dominion should assume the " responsibility of establishing amongst us, what it, " and it alone, had decided upon."

Events now moved rapidly. All officials of the Canadian Government were turned back at Riviere Sale, and a party of 25 to 30 half-breeds under Lepine ever conducted Mr. McDougall and his party from the H.B. Post at Pembina, into the U.S. Territory, enjoining upon them not to return to the settlement. Colonel Dennis' renewed efforts to raise a force at Portage La Prairie to bring the Governor in, luckily, failed, so bloodshed was avoided.

On November 19th, Mr. McDougall received from the Secretary of State at Ottawa, a despatch approving of his course in remaining at Pembina, to await the outcome of events ;- "As matters stand," it stated, " you can claim or assert no authority in the H.B. " Territory until the Queen's proclamation, annexing " the country to Canada reaches you.... If Governor " MacTavish either declines to admit you, or is pow- " erless to give you safe conduct, stay where you are " until further advised. You had better inform Gover- " nor MacTavish that you are only proceeding to Fort " Garry on the assumed consent of the Company". Then, Governor McTavish advised Mr. McDougall to return toCanada. This he did not do, but remained on, swayed between the advice of supposed friends in the settlement, to remain, and that of the Minister at Ottawa, to avoid all collision with the half-breeds. He remained, but had to retreat in the end.

On November 2nd, McDougall reminds Governor McTavish by letter that he (McTavish) was responsible for the preservation of the public peace,

acknowledging that he (McDougall) had no power to assume or exercise the powers of government until Her Majesty's Royal proclamation permitted him to do so. The Canadians residing in the settlement offering Dennis to proceed at his call to Pembina and escort McDougall into the country, a letter from the Secretary of State at Ottawa advising McDougall that the Minister had been made aware of the troubled conditions of affairs, and advising him to avoid all clash with the insurgents and any violation of the neutrality laws of the United States,— all served to perplex him more and more.

On November 2nd, Riel and a party of followers take possession of Fort Garry, notwithstanding the protests of Dr. Cowan, an officer in charge. Proceeding to the office of the "Nor-Wester," a couple of compositors specially engaged for the purpose printed off the following proclamation, despite the refusal of the editor Bown:-

"PUBLIC NOTICE TO THE INHABITANTS OF RUPERT'S LAND.

"The President and representatives of the French " speaking population of Rupert's Land, in council, " (the invaders of our rights being now expelled), "already aware of your sympathy, do extend the "hand of friendship to you, our friendly fellow inhabi- "tants, and in doing so invite you to send twelve "representatives from the following places, viz:-

St. Johns	1	St. Clements	1
Headingly	1	St. Margarets	1
St. Mary's	1	St. James	1
St. Pauls	1	Kildonan	1
St. Andrews	1	St. Peters	1

Town of Winnipeg............2

"in order to form one body with the above council, "consisting of twelve members, to consider the present "political state of this country; and to adopt such "measure as may be deemed best for the future "welfare of the same.

"A meeting of the above council will be held in "the Court House, at Fort Garry, on Tuesday, the "16th day of November, at which the invited repre-"sentatives will attend.

By order of the President,

"Winnipeg, Nov. 6th. 1869. Louis Riel, Secretary."

The rumor that McDougall intented running into the settlement a quantity of arms for the use of the Canadian party was seized upon as a pretext by Riel to examine every cart at the barrier, besides detaining the mails,— proceedings calculated to create ill-feeling towards his party.

To a letter from Governor MacTavish informing him of the taking of the Fort, McDougall sent a reply in which he said: "I wrote you two letters, "both in one envelope, detailing the proceedings and "position of things here, and suggesting a proclamation "from your government. explaining the nature of the "change in government, and warning the malcontents

"of the consequences of their acts. I was disappointed "to hear from those who met me that they had not "been informed by any in authority that the change "of government was an Imperial Act, and had the "sanction of the Queen", whereby it is seen that McDougall advised Governor McTavish to issue a document which would have been misleading, as no change of government had taken place, and of this McDougall was fully aware when he goes on to say, in the same letter: "I also reminded you and your council, that, until the actual transfer and proclamation, you are the legal rulers, and responsible for the preservation of the public peace".

McDougall is severely criticised for his irritability, and lack of proper regard for McTavish, as shewn in his correspondance; and, relying upon the representations of his friends in the settlement he even insinuated that there was no desire on the part of the Council and Company to put down the rebellion. Letters sent to McDougall and signed "Friends of Canada" say: "The Hudson's Bay Company are evidently "with the rebels, and their present role is to prevent "your having any official intercourse with them.... "Issue proclamation and then you may fearlessly "come down. Hudson's Bay Company evidently "shaking. By no means leave Pembina"....

Responding to the urgent request of the Canadians, McDougall sent to the authorities at Red River a protest against what he terms their inaction. The "Nor-Wester" published the protest, following it

with those words: "Here is the proclamation drawn "from Governor MacTavish on the present state of "affairs."

Governor MacTavish then wrote to McDougall to justify his Government for not having so far issued a proclamation referring to the prospective transfer of the territory, as his government had not as yet received any official intimation of the fact of said transfer or of its conditious, or of the date at which same were to take effect. Knowing that Riel had convened delegates from all parts of the settlement for the 16th November, MacTavish prepared a proclamation which he entrusted to his Secretary Mr. Hargrave, to be read to the Convention which consisted of the following members:-

ENGLISH

Town of Winnipeg, Henry McKenny, H. F. O'Lone.
Kildonan, James Ross
St. Johns, Maurice Lowman
St. Pauls, Dr. Bird.
St. Andrews, Donald Gunn
St. Clements, Thos. Bunn
St. Peters, Henry Prince, (Indian chief of settlement).
St. James, Robert Tait.
St. Anns, Geo. Gunn.
Portage La Prairie, John Garrioch.

FRENCH

St. François Xavier, François Dauphinais, Pierre Poitras. Pierre Lavieller.
St. Boniface, W. B. O'Donohue.
St. Vital, Andre Beauchemin, Pierre Paranteau sr.
St. Norbert, Louis La Serte, Baptiste Tournon.
St. Anns, Charles Nolin, John Baptiste Perrault.
John Bruce, President.
Louis Riel, Secretary.

It would be beyond the scope of this article to follow up the stirring events of those days to their ultimate issue. Many recall the successful mission of Mr. D. A. Smith (Lord Strathcona) who, through sheer tact and tenaciousness, ably assisted by Archbishop Tache, brought the several contending elements of the population together and induced them to agree to join the Confederation, and this was done when at a special session of the Legislative Assembly of the Provisional Government, held the 24th June 1870, Rev. Mr. Ritchot, one of the delagates sent to Ottawa, presented the Manitoba Act, as passed by the Parliament of Ottawa, and it was formally accepted by the representatives on behalf of the people of Red River.

For the historical information herein the writer wishes to express his great obligations to Mr. Alexander Begg's history to which Riel himself refers.

